

The Armenian Genocide resolution, H. Res. 106, was just approved today by a vote of 27-21 in the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I urge Speaker PELOSI to bring this important resolution to the floor so that we may finally provide the Armenian community with the recognition that they deserve.

□ 1830

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC DECISIONS EVER MADE BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, this date, October 10, 2007, marks the fifth anniversary of one of the most tragic decisions ever made by this House of Representatives. It was a decision that was also followed in the same way the following day, October 11, 5 years ago, by the United States Senate. That decision was based upon a request by this Bush administration to authorize the military invasion of the sovereign nation of Iraq. And that request by this administration and the subsequent authorization by this Congress was done based upon false information which was presented by various members of that organization.

After the attack of September 11, 2001, which was carried out by the al Qaeda network, this administration began to press the idea that Iraq was involved in that invasion. They began to try to manipulate the intelligence that was presented by our legitimate intelligence agencies. They began to press various parts of those intelligence operations to try to get them to provide some information upon which they could somehow justify the idea that Iraq was involved in that attack of September 11, 2001. That never really happened. The legitimate aspects of our intelligence agencies never produced that information.

Nevertheless, this administration provided that form of intelligence in an internal way within their own operation, evidence that they used to suggest initially that there was a relationship between Iraq and the attack of September 11th. They then began to make allegations that Iraq was a very dangerous country and we needed to engage them in a military invasion, and that military invasion was necessary based upon their assertion that Iraq possessed substantial amounts of so-called "weapons of mass destruction." They were alleging biological and chemical weapons. Those allegations, of course, were based upon the fact that the first Bush administration and the Reagan administration, back in the 1980s, had, in fact, provided biological and chemical weapons and other forms of weaponry to the Iraqi Government of Saddam Hussein. They believed that perhaps some of those weapons were still in existence in Iraq in spite of the fact that they were told over and over again that that was no longer the case. So they continued to press the idea that we should justify the invasion of Iraq. Unfortunately, the majority of the Members of this House and the Senate apparently bought into that idea and voted to authorize that invasion.

Those of us who voted against it had access to information that everyone should have had access to, I believe that most people did, that there was no connection between Iraq and the attack of September 11; that whatever chemical and biological weapons had been sent into Iraq in the 1980s were no longer there; and that there was no justification for the assertion that was made by many members of this administration, including the President himself, that Iraq was engaged in the production of nuclear weapons.

On October 7, just several days prior to the vote here in the House of Representatives, the President made a speech in Cincinnati, Ohio. That speech, in part, was in response to growing evidence that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. President Bush, like other members of his administration, Donald Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY, and others, used the phrase "mushroom cloud." He said, "You do not want the evidence of weapons of mass destruction to be in the form of a mushroom cloud." That, of course, was designed to create that image in the minds of the American people that we were confronting a nation that was likely to use nuclear weapons against our country and against others, all of which was completely false.

So we know now that all of the justification for that invasion was false, and this Congress now has the responsibility to engage in actions to correct it. We need to set a specific date for the withdrawal of our military forces from Iraq. We also need to take action for a specific provision which will deauthorize that invasion which was authorized

on October 10, 2002. We need to do that as soon as possible.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE INDIANS!

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES of Ohio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud sports fan from the City of Cleveland, Ohio. Yes, I have said it. What about those Indians? It has been years since Clevelanders can stand up and say they are proud of their professional sports teams and can actually point to success. Yet just this year the Cavaliers made the NBA finals for the first time in franchise history and on the back of our young superstar, LeBron James. After a strong draft in the spring, the Cleveland Browns looked competitive for the first time since the franchise returned in 1999, save one season.

But the main reason I stand today is to congratulate the Cleveland Indians for their first trip to the ALCS since 1998. Cleveland fans have been through a lot of disappointment in our sports history. Two losses for the Browns in the 1980s in the AFC championship by a drive and a fluke fumble. Losses to Michael Jordan's Bulls by the Cavs in the Eastern Conference finals in the early 1990s, and most recently in a heartbreaking loss in Game 7 of the 1997 World Series in the 9th inning to the Florida Marlins.

As a lifelong Clevelander, it has been difficult to live through so many near misses, and it makes you yearn for the days of Jim Brown and Bob Feller. The Indians displayed such a consistent level, failures during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, that the movie "Major League" was made depicting a fictional Indians team that was supposed to be the worst ever in baseball. However, all this disappointment changed in the 1990s when the Indians moved to their current home, Jacobs Field.

It was not so long ago that the Indians were competing for the World Series every year. Throughout the 1990s, the Indians made the World Series twice, in 1995 and 1997, and made the playoffs 5 straight years from 1994 to 1999. After a few bad years, the Indians were rebuilding through the early part of the 2000s, and I must credit General Manager Mark Shapiro for putting together a young, talented team that looks poised to become the class of the AL Central for years to come.

This year, the Indians won the AL Central crown and tied for the best record in baseball with the Boston, what are they called? Boston Red Sox. I must say, this team is exciting to watch. We have a rising star in center fielder Grady Sizemore, the best one-two pitching punch in baseball with CC Sabathia and Fausto Carmona.

I want to give a special shout out to veteran outfielder Kenny Lofton. Kenny is the only player on the roster who played with the Indians during